parties have shown interest to participate in a refinery in Orissa.

Agricultural Production in Delhi

1274. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in agricultural production in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of population in Delhi dependent on agriculture; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the agricultural production in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) About 15 to 20 percent of population in Delhi is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture.

(d) The steps taken to increase the agriculture production include cultivation of high yielding varieties of various crops, production of short duration crops like vegetables, multiple cropping, transfer of agriculture production technology to farmers and supply of quality inputs including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc.

Increase in Passport Fee

1275. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the passport fee;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) the existing passport fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reason for increasing the passport fee is the steep escalation in cost of providing passports and the inability of Government to provide better services, through increase in the number of Passport Offices and streamlining/computerisation of passport services due to financial constraints. It is proposed to increase the fee as early as possible.

(c) Fee for issue of a fresh India International Ordinary passport is Rs. 50/-.

Supply of Crude Oil by Kuwait

1276. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kuwait has offered to supply curde oil to India;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;

(c) the terms and conditions on which crude oil is likely to be imported; and

(d) the other countries from which crude oil is imported?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Crude oil is being imported under term contracts with National Oil Companies of USSR, Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, UAE and through spot purchases.

Increase in import of crude oil

1277. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase